



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- NEWS RELEASE -

**BYSIEWICZ LAMENTS SPECIAL SESSION NOTIFICATION COST –
BILL FOR USING STATE POLICE TO NOTIFY LAWMAKERS
COULD COST TAXPAYERS \$35,000**

Hartford: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz issued a statement today lamenting the high cost to taxpayers of using state police to notify members of the General Assembly that Gov. Rell has ordered a special session for Wednesday September 26th.

According to state statute, if a special session is ordered with less than ten days notice, lawmakers are to be given written notice by, “a state marshal, constable, state policeman or indifferent person at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of convening of such special session.”

“In this day of cell phones, fax machines, e-mail, overnight mail delivery, and text messaging, it is astonishing that taxpayers are forced to foot the bill for hand delivery of special session notices,” said Bysiewicz. “This is the type of wastefulness that understandably irritates taxpayers and it needs to stop. The state statute, which was written decades ago, should be changed and I look forward to working with legislators and Gov. Rell during this next legislative session to get it done.”

On the afternoon of Friday September 21st Gov. Rell's office requested, in writing and via telephone, that the Secretary of the State's office use the state police to distribute the Governor's special session proclamation to the 186 members of the General Assembly. Subsequently, beginning early Friday evening, 72 state police troopers distributed notices of special session to the legislators.

The Secretary of the State's office estimates the notification process could cost its agency – and ultimately taxpayers - as much as \$35,000. The last time the State Police were called on to fan out across the state and distribute special session notices to lawmakers was in 1983.

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